

PLAISTOW AND IFOLD PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 8th JANUARY 2008

3. Draft Budget for 2008/2009

The papers for this agenda item are enclosed.

4. Future work of the Finance Committee

Members may wish to consider whether there are any areas of Council work that could be dealt with by the Committee, rather than at Council meetings.

Examples of such work could be (a) staffing matters, (b) quarterly budget monitoring, (c) insurance review, (d) financial risk assessment, (e) audit matters and (f) the consideration of grants.

There is no reason why the above matters could not be delegated to the Finance Committee to consider and make decisions upon.

The only financial issue that cannot be determined by the Finance Committee is the setting of the precept. It is also considered appropriate that Financial Policy, while having been initially considered by the Finance Committee, should be determined by full Council.

All Committee meetings are open to all Councillors and they are entitled to speak on a particular issue, although non-Committee members are not entitled to vote. Further, all Councillors would be aware of the work of the Committee, as happens with the Planning Committee.

If Members are minded to extend the work of the Committee, a full Report could be prepared covering those areas, which the Committee feels it can deal with. If the Committee wishes to take this step, it would be advisable to have an additional meeting before the end of the financial year, say in the last week of February, so that the Committee's Recommendations can be put to Council at the meeting on 11th March 2008. Council would have to agree a change to Standing Orders to incorporate any changes to the 'remit' of the Finance Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

Members' views are sought